

RIVERSIDE, CALIF.
ENTERPRISE

M. 24,365
S. 54,925

MAR 22 1962

CIA gives a medal

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It has been observed many times and on many occasions that the CIA moves in wondrous ways.

We see this again in the revelation that James B. Donovan, the New York lawyer who played a principal role in negotiating the swap of Col. Rudolph Abel for Francis Gary Powers, has received the Central Intelligence Agency's Distinguished Intelligence Medal.

The wondrous thing is not that the medal was awarded. The interest lies in the fact that the medal was presented on a Tuesday in a strictly private session in Washington, and the award was not made publicly known until the following Saturday when news of it was included in, of all things, a press memorandum of the New York City Board of Education, of which Mr. Donovan is vice president.

That's the kind of cloak-and-dagger stuff we like to see, to be improved only if the CIA denied any knowledge of the medal, lawyer Donovan, and the New York Board of Education.